

★ ★ ★ STARS FOREVER ★ ★ ★

Message from the Director

I hope you all are doing well and enjoying your retirement and the summer. I appreciate all that you do to help with special events and when needs arise. I want to thank you for your continued support. I hope you will continue to promote the agency when you have the opportunity to talk with members of the General Assembly.



Greetings to all STARS

I hope you have all had a safe and healthy summer. I know some of you have taken some really nice trips and some of you have made trips to the hospital. **Jean Bradford** is at home recuperating from a twice broken leg that has resulted in several surgeries. **Emily Schroeder** is doing well but still recuperating from her recent surgery. **Linda Amick** and her husband just got back from a trip to Alaska.

In the future, I would like to be able to mention these types of things, along with any information you would like to provide, in our newsletter to keep you all informed on what is going on with your fellow STARS. What I am looking for is 2 or 3 of you from each region of the state to volunteer to form a committee to help **coordinate news and events in your area**. If you would be interested in helping with this project, please give me a call or an email. My contact information is listed at the end of the newsletter.

I am going to devote some of this newsletter to information I have received pertaining to

the **Retirees Association**. Those of you who attended the luncheon in March at the PSC received some information from **W.C. West** and expressed an interest to learn more. I hope this information will be valuable to you. If any of you are interested in joining the **State Retirees Association**, please contact me or go to the Web site listed below for an application.

Sam Griswold sent this information: I am president of the State Retirees Association. We try to ensure that our retirement benefits are maintained. I think we have been very successful in doing that and **are becoming a major lobbying force**. If you could help us generate more members through your work, it would be a great boon for retirees.

Please check out our Web site at **www.srasc.org**. We are making a big difference but, as I am sure you know, in the political game, numbers make a difference. If I can assist you in any way, let me know. If I can speak to any of your groups, let me know. This political arena is much different than those in the past. We need to be heard and seen as a group with some clout because the squeaking wheel gets the grease.

W.C. West added this information: The purpose of our **Association is to represent all state retirees, including police officers, teachers and municipal employees**. We try to work with the Legislature, Budget and Control Board and the Retirement System to protect our benefits. All the officers and others work voluntarily to get the job done. We need more members so that the Legislature will pay closer

attention to us and be more willing to help us. There are over **100,000 retirees now** and we only have about **700 members**. Besides the COLA, the next thing we will have to be concerned about is our health insurance or the loss thereof. Anyone interested should contact Sam Griswold or me, W.C. West. E-mail Address: **sgriswold@sc.rr.com** or **dubw@sc.rr.com**

THANKS

To all of the STARS that have volunteered over the past few months with the **PSC, Harry Hampton Events, renewal mailers** and other projects throughout the agency. Contact me if you would like to volunteer to help in any area.

SYMPATHY

We have lost three STARS since our last newsletter. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the families of:

- ★ **Faye Couche**, OSS in Licensing from Cayce
- ★ **Lester Graham**, LE from Lancaster
- ★ **Johnnie Q. Robinson**, LE from York

Please contact me if a STAR passes away so we can send our condolences. If I have omitted any STAR who has passed away, I apologize---please let me know so I can include them in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 24th annual **Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic** to be held **March 28-30, 2008**. Volunteers will be needed in all areas. At this

time, we do plan to have a **STARS luncheon** at the event again this year. Look for more details early next year.

HELP WANTED

We would like to go around the state during the months of October and November for **informal get-togethers** at some **great restaurants**. We want to **share stories** and have **good fellowship**. If you have any suggestions on areas or restaurants, or want to help with the coordination, please email or call me. We look forward to seeing you all then.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Access the **STARS** program and the newsletter through our **homepage** **www.dnr.sc.gov**.

Don't forget **The Wildlife Shop** for your shopping needs. A **20% discount** is given all year and **25% discounts** are given several times a year.

I am in the processing of **updating the subscription list for the magazine**. If you are not receiving the magazine at this time, please let me know. Also remember that **S.C. Wildlife magazine** makes a great gift.

Send me updates on any change of mailing address, email address or phone number.

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